



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NEW ENGLAND ORGANIZED CRIME
DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE ("NEW ENGLAND OCDEF")**

**LAWRENCE MAN SENTENCED TO ON FEDERAL COCAINE TRAFFICKING AND
WEAPONS CHARGES**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey announced that Jose **GARCIA-PINA**, DOB 6/6/71, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment today on federal cocaine trafficking and weapon charges.

U.S. District Judge Bruce Lindsey sentenced GARCIA PINA to 15 years imprisonment followed by a 5 year period of supervised release, during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation. GARCIA PINA had previously entered a guilty plea to possession with intent to distribute a kilogram of marijuana in Seabrook, New Hampshire, on October 18, 1999, and to possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime on the same date. An undercover DEA Task Force Officer purchased the kilo from GARCIA PINA, who then lead local and state police and DEA agents on a high speed chase in to Lawrence, Massachusetts, where he fired a handgun in the direction of pursuing officers during his attempt to flee.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this office's commitment to the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, and the aggressive prosecution of crimes related to all forms of illegal drug trafficking, and the transportation of cocaine into New Hampshire across the southern border with Massachusetts in particular. My office will continue to participate in the OCDEF program, seeking to reduce the drug supply in the state of New Hampshire. "

The prosecution was handled in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF"), who is also a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.